



Meeting Minutes Youth Council January 23, 2014

Call to Order

Glenn Cargile called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Gary Breedlove, Loni Brewer, Glenn Cargile, Ramona George, Wendy Graves, Steve Gray (non-voting), Tommy Hawkins, Sally Payne (non-voting), Billy Schroeder.

Members absent: Sherri Freeman, Pat Gartland, Phyllis Hunsaker, Jason Pace.

Staff attending: Denise Bischof, Karen Dowdy, Kris Hollenbeck, Alma Price, Mary Ann Rojas

Guests attending: Angel Maxwell, Meghan Fox.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 23, 2014 meeting were approved as read.

New Business

Alternative Opportunities Contract Modification #13

Youth Provider, Alternative Opportunities, has requested a contract modification (#13) to extend the term to June 30, 2014. It includes a new staffing table and line item budget adjustment. No additional funding is requested.

Mary Ann Rojas moved to approve the AO Contract Modification #13 to extend the term to June 30, 2014 with no additional funding. Ramona George seconded and the motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes: Breedlove, Brewer, Cargile, George, Graves, Hawkins, Schroeder **Nays:** (0); **Absent:** Freeman, Gartland, Hunsaker, Pace; **Abstain:** (0).

Old Business

Strategic Action Plan

- Denise Bischof presented the updated Strategic Action Plan tasks that were assigned to the Youth Council. No additional changes were made.
- Mary Ann Rojas reported that she is on the P20 Advisory Council and there is also a Youth Committee led by Lindsay Haymes from the Chamber. The goal of the Council is to promote life-long learning from preschool through age 20.
- Mary Ann Rojas gave an update on the Regional Labor Market Survey. The goal is to involve as many employers as possible in the region. The next step is to meet with employers to develop questions. The estimated completion date is 11/30/14.

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2014 Youth Council Forum

- The focus of the Forum is to bring together School Counselors and the Workforce Development Professionals in the 7 County Region to openly share and discuss best practices and new ideas aimed at engaging youth in the skill sets of the future.
- Tentative date has been set for October 23, 2014. The event will be 4 hours; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. with lunch provided.
- The agenda will include an employer panel and presentation of regional labor market data.
- The planning sub-committee is meeting immediately following today's council meeting.

Presentations/Updates

Summer Youth Update – Sally Payne

- We have not received a final budget from the state. Expect to have it soon.
- Mary Ann Rojas stated that the State park Youth Corp (SPYC) program will be funded again this year through AO. \$1 million in funding is also coming from the Family Services Division for the entire state.
- Steve Gray noted that the application process for the SPYC program is immediate and on-going with an anticipated May 1 start date for the initial slots. The 300 volunteer hours can be completed by the end of the calendar year. The program is limited to youth ages 17-24 at designated state parks.
- Glenn Cargile mentioned the importance of this program because of the high youth unemployment rate.
- Gary Breedlove noted the program is being heavily promoted through the Division of Youth but the age restrictions and transportation difficulties are issues.
- Ramona George suggested that AO connect with the OTC Table Rock Campus to fill slots at Table Rock State Park.

Success Story

- Meghan Fox, Youth Job Developer, introduced youth program participant, Angel Maxwell. Angel came to the program in November of 2012 with the goals of completing high school and pursuing a degree in nursing. She has a strong desire to work with children in the neo-natal intensive care unit.
- Angel was placed in a WEP with the Polk County Health Center where she received an exceptional performance evaluation from her supervisor. In fact, her supervisor was so impressed that she created a part-time position for Angel.
- The number one thing Angel gained from the experience was social skills and the confidence to interact with the public. She stated that creating and working towards goals played an important part in her success.
- Angel learned about the program through her high school counselor at Halfway.

Reports (All reports are included in the meeting packet)

Youth – Kris Hollenbeck

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- 170 new enrollments for the year
- 12 people started WEPS this month
- Glenn Cargile commended AO for their expansion into other counties and their ability to find very diverse job opportunities for participants. Kris responded that job developers seek employment specific to participant career goals.
- Kris noted that Career Managers must have one contact per month with counselors but typically see them two times per month.
- Ramona George asked if referrals were being made to the GED program at the Missouri Career Center since there were only four students in class this week. Kris reported that they were. Ramona stated the need to promote the classes.

Director – Mary Ann Rojas

- Mary Ann commended the Council for the role they play in meeting the needs of youth employment in our community. The Council's charge is to oversee the youth program and to bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the WIB in an advisement capacity. She reminded the Council that new members are needed.
- Last night was a College Student Meet & Greet networking event at the Career Center. It was a partnership with the City of Springfield, Springfield/Greene County Chamber, and local colleges to promote opportunities for students and employers to bring in more diversity. There were 16 employers and 29 students.
- A new Ozark Region Missouri Career Center logo was created as a part of the larger marketing and communication plan being developed to improve community awareness.
- Mary Ann is a member of the new Impacting Poverty Commission led by Greg Burris and Gail Smart. The 35 members met last with to begin addressing the growing issue of poverty in our community.
- The next WIB meeting is Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Performance – Karen Dowdy

- Karen Dowdy, Compliance Coordinator, provided an update on the latest negotiated performance measure report. She reported that the Region was meeting performance in all areas; however, noted that the information on the reports can be up to a year old due to the reflected Department of Labor (DOL). She provided a breakdown of the WIA Performance for the Third Quarter of 2013, which reflected the percentage of the goal that had been met.
- Karen shared the following youth specific information from the current program year:
 - 257 participants; of those 187 ages 14-18 and 70 ages 19-21
 - 166 in school; 91 out of school
 - 41 homeless
 - 28 pregnant or parenting
 - 51 disabled
 - 218 not graduated from high school
 - NCRC Certificates: 13 bronze; 26 silver; 15 gold

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- Mary Ann Rojas commented that the Council should be focused on how to support program youth facing the multiple barriers to employment listed above.
- Loni Brewer from Rare Breed mentioned an event being held by the Homeless Youth Subcommittee of the Continuum of Care Partnership called "Beyond the Brochure." It is an opportunity for agencies to learn about what's happening at other agencies. To be held in June 2014.
- Glenn Cargile mentioned a young man he recently met at the Library who could not get Career Center services because he did not have an ID. Loni Brewer stated that Rare Breed pays for ID's and birth certificates which are both required for employment.

Finance – Sally Payne

- Youth Contract expenditures anticipated to be 84% which is slightly above the 80% goal.
- Hopeful that funding will be restored to 2012 levels.
- Will learn if we received the Youth Career Connect Grant in April.
- The 2014/2015 budget presented to the City of Springfield is at a conservative 5% decrease although funding will most likely remain stable. The budget will be brought before the WIB at the May meeting.

Announcements-Other Information Items

- Wendy Graves presented the MERIC Labor Market Summary report noting that the top employers are hospitals, colleges, and universities. There is a myriad of data available on the MERIC website.
- Loni Brewer announced that Rare Breed also has GED classes with free child care, meals, and the test fee is paid for.
- Tommy Hawkins announced that Habitat for Humanity is beginning the construction season so there are many volunteer opportunities. He is making referrals to the Career Center.
- Ramona George announced that OTC GED graduation is scheduled for May 6, 6 p.m. at the Gillioz Theater.
- Gary Breedlove announced that the Division of Youth Services is having a graduation and job fair in June with over 100 graduates. They are also restoring a house near OTC and building another new home. 80 students will be participating in the College 101 program at OTC.

Adjournment

With no further discussion, Glenn Cargile adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Notes: Denise Bischof, Special Assistant